

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DOE-11 SOE-02 NRC-05 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-05 /120 W
-----108056 212030Z /46

R 211614Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8193
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1231

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LI, PBOR, NI, OAU, SO, ET
SUBJECT: VISIT OF NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO TO MONROVIA

REF: MONROVIA 1031

1. REGINALD TOWNSEND, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 20 THAT THE GOL HAD BEEN EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE STATE VISIT OF HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO TO LIBERIA FEBURARY 19 - 20. OBASANJO'S THEME IN HIS PRIVATE TALKS WITH LIBERIAN OFFICIALS (INCLUDING TOWNSEND, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SIAFA SHERMAN AND MINISTER OF FINANCE JT. PHILLIPS) WAS THAT ALTHOUGH NIGERIA WAS LARGER, MORE POPULOUS AND BETTER BLESSED IN NATURAL RESOURCES THAN LIBERIA, LIBERIA HAD A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF ITS TRADITION OF POLITICAL STABILITY AND ITS POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM, A TRADITION WHICH BBASANJO SAID NIGERIA DID NOT YET HAVE. BECAUSE OF THIS COMBINATION OF ATTRIBUTES, ACCORDING TO OBASANJO, LIBERIA AND NIGERIA WERE A POTENT FORCE WORKING TOGETHER FOR UNITY AND PROGRESS IN AFRICA.

2. THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT COMMISSION TO LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITIES OF MORE
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BILATERAL COOPERATION. IT WAS NOTED THAT LIBERIA EXPORTS IRON ORE WHICH MIGHT BE SOLD TO THE NASCENT STEEL INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA AND THAT LIBERIAN LATEX OUTPUT MIGHT FIND A MARKET IN THE NIGERIAN TIRE INDUSTRY.

3. WITH REGARD TO ZIMBABWE, THE TWO LEADERS AGREED IN THEIR PRIVATE TALKS THAT THE POPULAR FRONT MUST NOT BE OMITTED FROM

ANY SOLUTION AND THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS REMAINED THE BEST APPROACH TO A LONG TERM POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.

4. COMMENT: LIBERIA HAS TENDED TO BE SOMEWHAT JEALOUS OF THE PROMINENT ROLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS ASSUMED BY NIGERIA BECAUSE OF ITS WEALTH AND SIZE. OBASANJO'S STATESMANLIKE DEFERENCE TO LIBERIA'S "EXPERIENCE" AND "STABILITY" OBVIOUSLY PLEASED THE GOL. CARTER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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